

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, July 30, 1992

Published Since 1877

Observe Day of Prayer for World Peace Aug. 2

By Michael K. Whitehead

A bumper sticker several years ago said: "Visualize World Peace." God has a better idea.

His plan is the only one that really works. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to be the Prince of Peace. The angels announced his birth with a promise of peace on earth (Luke 2:14). At the heart of his ministry, Jesus promised: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God" (Matt. 5:9). Near the end of his ministry, Jesus said, "...My peace I give you, not as the world gives" (John 14:27). "I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33, NIV)! At his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, he lamented for the Jewish people: "Would that you knew the things that make for peace" (Luke 19:41).

So how does God plan to "make peace" in the world? One person at a time. There are over 5.5 billion of us on this planet. Modern warfare has killed more people in this century than there were people living on the earth in Jesus' day. But God's plan remains the same: Win over one rebel heart at a time.

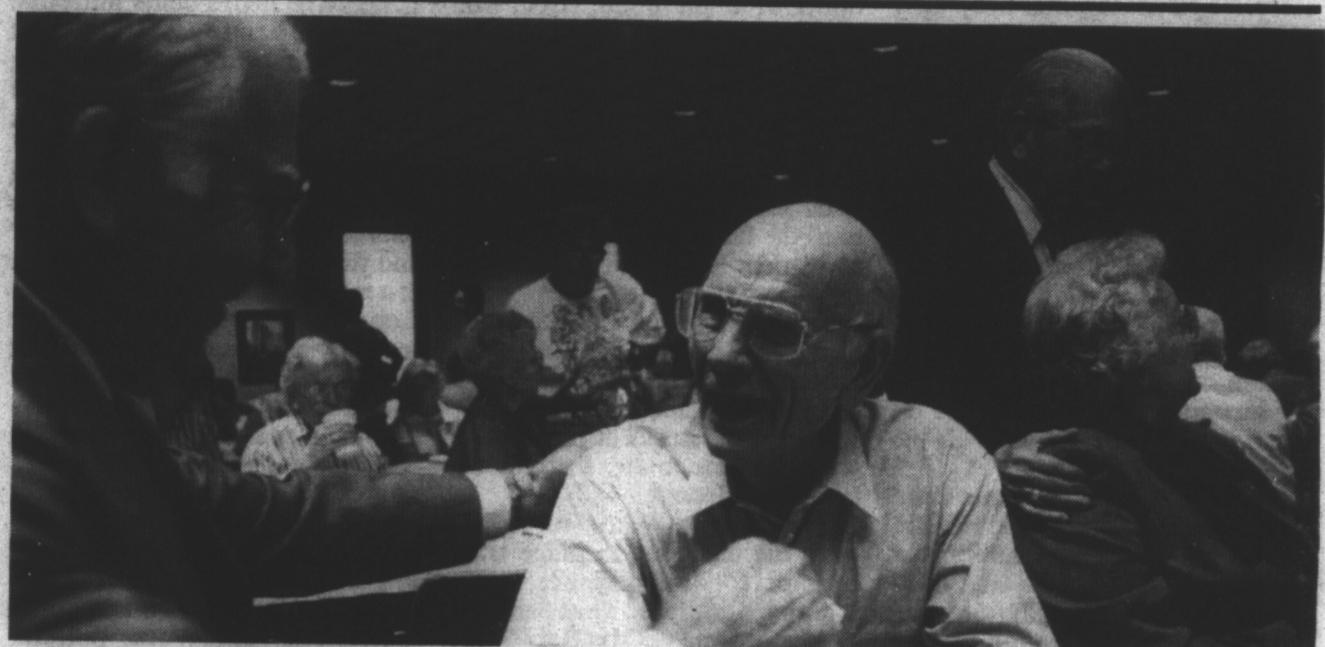
Whitehead is general counsel, director of Citizenship and Religious Liberty concerns, CLC.

"Would that you knew the things that make for peace"
(Luke 19:41-44, RSV)



Observe Day of Prayer for World Peace
August 2, 1992

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission
of the Southern Baptist Convention



"HANDLE CRITICISM CREATIVELY" — James L. Sullivan, center, retired president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board (1953-1975), laughs with Keith Mee, left, a retired church media library department employee, during a barbecue luncheon to cele-

brate the board's 101st anniversary. Sullivan, speaker for a chapel service before the barbecue, was among approximately 1,500 employees, retirees, and trustees who participated in the anniversary celebration. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

Baptist colleges should educate students to demonstrate compassion

By Larry D. Brumley

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Denominational colleges should seek to educate students who are not only capable but who also demonstrate compassion, Ernest L. Boyer told more than 700 Southern Baptist educators June 22 at the National Conference on Integrating Personal Faith and Professional Discipline.

Boyer, president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, delivered the keynote address at the Education Commission-sponsored conference at Samford University in Birmingham.

The four priorities are based on making "connections," Boyer said. Connections through the sacredness of language; through a curriculum with coherence that "reveals the creation of our Lord"; through cross-cultural understanding that allows students to discover the dignity of every human being by integrating faith and learning; and through a life of dedicated service.

"Denominational education means teaching students that language is a sacred trust and that honesty is the obligation we assume when we're empowered with the use of words," Boyer said. "We are all connected through the use of symbols."

Students at denominational colleges also should study a core of common learning that gives them a more coherent view of knowledge and a more integrated, more reverential view of life, Boyer said.

"The task of the denominational college is to go beyond the disci-

ples and departments, which are only means to larger ends, and give to students a sense of wholeness, helping them through a core curriculum, discovering the mystery and majesty of God's creation. The harsh truth is that on most college campuses today, including almost all of our church-related institutions, general education is frankly an exercise in trivial pursuit. Students are offered a grab-bag of isolated courses, they complete the required credits, but what they fail to gain is a sense of the awesome miracle of the natural world, and all of the wonder and the mystery disappears.

"We cannot live, either socially or intellectually, in a disconnected world," Boyer said. "I'm suggesting that church-related schools and colleges have both an educational and an ethical obligation to help students discover the connections across the disciplines and to give them a more integrated view of knowledge and a more reverential, authentic view of life."

A third priority for denominational institutions is to help students gain a global perspective and help them understand connections across the cultures by becoming increasingly familiar and respectful of traditions other than their own.

"In our deeply divided world, students must begin to understand that while we're all separate and unique, we are at the same time deeply dependent on each other, and that we do in fact have very

much in common," Boyer said.

"Students at denominational colleges should learn to celebrate the uniqueness of every culture. They should take great satisfaction in their own distinctive characteristics — those that make them a very special creature unique in God's creation. Students in our colleges should also learn to celebrate the connections across the cultures. Prejudice must be reduced. Hatred cannot be advanced in these places which preach Christian love."

A final priority for denominational colleges is to help students form convictions and make connections between what they learn and how they live.

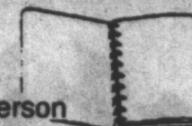
"I'm convinced that education simply cannot be divorced from values. George Steiner, the British philosopher, reminded us that a man who is intellectually advanced can at the same time be morally bankrupt.

"A church-related school or college must above all help students not only get credentialed, but discover a divine meaning for their existence. I do not suggest a program of indoctrination, nor do you. Rather the goal should be to create in every classroom a climate that makes honorable the quest that encourages the search for deeper meaning — one in which professors are models for their students as they themselves integrate faith and learning."

Brumley is assistant vice president for university relations, Mercer University, Macon, Ga.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson



Standing on the promises

A former SBC President, James P. Boyce, (1872), wrote a "Brief Catechism of Bible Doctrine". "How came the Bible to be written?" Boyce said,

"God inspired holy men to write it.

Did they write it exactly as God wished?

Yes; as much as if he had written every word himself.

Ought it, therefore, to be believed and obeyed?

Yes; as much as though God had spoken directly to us."

Boyce expressed it well. If God speaks, it is without error, for he cannot lie. He leads us to increased understanding of his Word. I do wish I could obey it with all the fervor I have when I argue it.

God is able to communicate with men in all ages. The historic development of Scripture spans hundred of years and God used men of all times. The Spirit of God working in and through human experiences, combining diverse human elements and spanning cen-

turies brought forth the Word. God could have used angels but he did not. Men, some highly educated and some dressed in sycamore trees, moved and inspired by the Spirit wrote the Book. "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in times past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by his Son." (Heb. 1:1-2). The disciples wrote, "of all that Jesus began both to do and teach" (Acts 1:1) and left to us the final record of God's self-revelation. It is the permanent and final word.

Jesus gave a true estimate of the Scriptures: "Ye search the scriptures, ye think that in them ye have eternal life, and these are they which bear witness of me; and ye will not come to me, that ye may have life" (John 5:39-40).

Through the years there has been the tendency to judge truth by a personal experience rather than by Scripture. This personal experience and not the Holy Word becomes the foundation of their belief. The Bible is relegated to a

secondary position. Is experience a valid test of Scriptural truth. Check some experiences heard from television and other sources. Miracle coins are sent out; you are going to be rich, a dollar turns into \$20 from hand to cashier, fuel tanks fill supernaturally, washing machines are healed, demons are exorcised from vending machines, etc.

All experiences should be tested in the light of God's Word. Peter reminds us of a "more sure word" and that "no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God" (II Peter 1:19-21). Paul "reasoned with them" (in Thessalonica) from the Scriptures (Acts 17:2), not from experience.

Our experiences with God are important but when it becomes an experiential theology we begin bending theology to match an experience. Thy Word, O Lord, giveth light. The standard of judgment is the Word of God.

WELCOME TO IT'S HALLOWED HALLS

**"I HAVE READ THE BIBLE
THROUGH MANY TIMES,
AND MAKE IT A PRACTICE
TO READ IT THROUGH ONCE
EVERY YEAR. IT IS A BOOK
OF ALL OTHERS FOR LAW-
YERS, AS WELL AS DIVINES;
AND I PITY THE MAN WHO
CANNOT FIND IN IT A RICH
SUPPLY OF THOUGHT AND
OF RULES FOR CONDUCT."
— DANIEL WEBSTER**

than 200 students have little hope of continuing in good standing with SACS. In 1985, Clarke entered into the early stages of a self-study under the new SACS Criteria for Accreditation. My opinion is that there was nothing Clarke could have done to successfully complete this accreditation evaluation. We have good reason to believe that SACS wanted to eliminate Clarke from its membership before the study was ever done.

Recruiting students at Clarke has always been difficult. The school's 83-year history has few years where the college population exceeded 300 students. Clarke is located seven miles from East Central Community College, 25 miles from Meridian Community College, 35 miles from East Mississippi Community College, and 50 miles from Jones Community College.

Accrediting agencies are very concerned with operational deficits, but the term does not necessarily mean that the school is spending borrowed money. Income from auxiliary enterprises and plant funds are not included in this deficit. Before the 1991-92 school year, Clarke College operated on its own money, debt-free. Many schools would love to have that kind of "financial instability."

I

believe that the ultimate reason for the closure of the college was the direct result of a very long-standing uncomfortable relationship with the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges (SACS). SACS seems to have difficulties with small independent colleges — especially Baptist colleges. Their assumption is that bigger is better, and no college can continue to operate with a small student population.

There are no specific size requirements in the SACS Criteria for Accreditation, but my limited experience is that such schools with stable enrollment of fewer

When the SACS accreditation was finally removed in 1991, recruiting students became even more impossible. Questions about credits transferring to senior colleges, together with the loss of all federal student aid, virtually eliminated the prospects for Clarke to survive.

These folks are also elected by the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and have never betrayed our trust. We have no reason to believe that they will begin to do so now.

Let us give the system that has served us well for generations a chance to serve us. Good people in

(See CLARKE on page 10)

Clarke College — Why?

By Ron Kirkland

Why did Clarke College close? This question deserves an answer, as many in the Mississippi Baptist Convention are sincerely asking the question without hearing a response. As a former dean of Clarke College who genuinely loves the school, and as chairman of the Education Commission for the past three years, I am in a unique position to hazard a guess or to offer an informed opinion as to why I think the college closed.

In 1979, the Convention voted to merge Clarke and Mississippi colleges. At the time of the vote, there was no formal plan of merger, and the Mississippi College board of trustees had not formally agreed to a merger. Many believed that the merger was the only way that Clarke could stay open. The Mississippi College trustees accepted the challenge and took over the troubled school. It is important to remember that Mississippi College did not seek the merger but responded to the convention's request to accept the responsibility of operating the college.

The Convention continued to support the college as if it were still a separate institution for the next three years.

In 1983 a nine-year program of gradually eliminating the separate institutional support going to Clarke College was begun. Every-

one hoped that Clarke's enrollment would increase to about 300 students. That increased revenue from tuition could have made up for the loss of convention revenue. As we all know, that did not happen. In recent years we recognized that increases in enrollment would not offset convention losses, so a program of special allocations were made available to Clarke. We should take note that Clarke College has continued to receive a stable allocation from the Convention throughout the years of the merger. Clarke did not close because the Convention did not support it!

Financial instability has long been one of the great concerns for Clarke. An "operational deficit" of several hundred thousand dollars has been commonly understood as a great problem facing Clarke.

This is indeed a problem, but a deficit should not be confused with debt. Clarke College has operated without borrowing money for the last several years. According to the annual audits filed with the Convention through fiscal year 1991-92, Clarke had no debt.

"Operating deficit" is a technical term relating to the educational operation of the school that balances tuition receipts, certain gifts,

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SBC publishing board begins executive management search

By Charles Willis

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Baptist Sunday School Board is seeking persons to fill key leadership positions in five business-related areas, President James T. Draper Jr. has announced.

The search, including advertisements in cities known for concentrations of business and publishing companies and personnel, includes upper-middle management positions in Bible and book publishing, bookstores, advertising and marketing, distribution, and business and finance.

Advertisements in Nashville's *The Tennessean*, *The New York Times*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Chicago Sun Times*, Grand

Rapids Press, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, and Dallas Morning News cite minimum requirements of 10 years of successful, high-level experience in the specified fields. The display ads, at a cost of approximately \$25,000, were placed by the board's human resources department.

"We want the best people available," Draper said, "and while, by law, we are an equal opportunity employer, we prefer to find Southern Baptists for these openings."

Draper said the board is looking for persons who can support the board's vision statement and core values and who best match a leadership profile developed by one of

several employee-staffed task forces for reorganizing the agency.

Advertisements similar to those in the daily newspapers will appear in trade publications such as *Book Store Journal*, *Christian Retailing*, *Publishers Weekly*, and state Baptist newspapers within the next few weeks, Lawrence said.

Resumes with salary history and names, addresses and phone numbers of references should be addressed to Senior Search Committee, Baptist Sunday School Board, Human Resources Department, MSN 121, 127 Ninth Ave. N., Nashville, TN 37234.

Willis writes for BSSB.

Land, others express opposition to women in combat roles

By Tom Strode

WASHINGTON (BP) — Placing women in combat positions would threaten the United States military's effectiveness and harm the country's families, Richard Land and 11 other leaders of pro-family or pro-defense organizations said in a recent letter to members of a presidential commission.

Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, and the others said they hope the commission will agree with "the view of most Americans: that allowing women into combat means sacri-

ficing the lives of our military men and women and devastating their families — indeed, jeopardizing the nation itself."

The July 16 letter was sent to the Presidential Commission on the Assignment of Women in the Armed Forces. The commission is scheduled to make its recommendation Nov. 15 on whether women should be assigned combat roles in the U.S. military.

Indications are the commission will recommend allowing women at least to serve in combat roles in aircraft and on ships, according to

a source familiar with the commission's deliberations.

Allowing women in combat positions, even in planes, is a bad idea for several reasons, Land and the others wrote, including:

— The possibility of women being killed or raped during a war.

— The emotional stress on children separated from mothers in combat units.

— The inability of women to perform at similar levels as men in combat roles.

"The evidence is conclusive," (See WOMEN on page 9)

SBC not dead despite warnings, says Herschel Hobbs

By Mark Wingfield

COLUMBIA, Ky. (ABP) — The Southern Baptist Convention is not dead, despite the warnings issued by some Southern Baptists opposed to the denomination's current direction, said Herschel Hobbs.

Hobbs, widely regarded as the SBC's elder statesman, advised disgruntled moderate-conservatives, who have lost control of the SBC to fundamental-conservatives in the last 13 years, not to leave the denomination.

The retired Oklahoma pastor said he was reminded of a letter he received years ago from W. A. Criswell, longtime pastor of First Church in Dallas and a well-known fundamental-conservative leader. Writing long before the current controversy erupted,

Criswell told Hobbs he was concerned that the SBC was dying, that "this old ship is going down."

Hobbs said he replied then that the SBC's ship wasn't sinking but just going through some troubled waters.

And the advice he gave Criswell then still applies to modern-day moderate-conservatives who think the SBC is dying, he said: "If this ship does go down, I'm still going to be on board, bailing water until the last gurgle."

Hobbs' advice to Southern Baptist churches is to ignore the controversy between Baptist factions that has preoccupied the SBC since 1979. "I tell churches wherever I go, 'This is a struggle up at the top. Go on and do the Lord's work and pay no attention to that.'"

"Southern Baptists are not up to their necks in this, but to their heads, and they're drowning in it. The average layperson is disgusted."

As evidence the SBC is not dying, Hobbs cited the \$81 million received last year for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

"That doesn't sound to me like the Southern Baptist Convention is dead," he said, recalling when the annual offering goal was just \$7 million.

Instead of dying, the convention is going through a periodic "course correction," Hobbs asserted. "This time, because of the politics, we're going to come back a little to the right of center, but it won't last long," he said.

Boyhood friend's witness yields baptism in handcuffs

By Stephanie Heading

FLOYDS KNOB, Ind. (BP) — The life-changing power of Jesus, the undying love of a friend and the aid of the justice system all led to an unusual baptism service at First Southern Baptist Church of Floyds Knob, Ind.

Pastor David Wood baptized a handcuffed prisoner as church members and the prisoner's family and friends looked on.

However, the story of the prisoner, Jeff Campbell, began long before the baptism service. It began in the heart of Kevin Manring. Manring and many of his family became Christians and were baptized at the Floyds Knob church. Following his conversion, Manring sensed a burden for Campbell, his boyhood friend. But Campbell was hostile toward anything to do with God.

Things began to change last winter when Campbell was arrested during a drug bust. "Once he was in jail, he was willing to see me," Wood recounted. "I spent about an hour and a half with him and he accepted the Lord."

Campbell wanted to be baptized, so Wood made special arrangements with the court.

Church member Ron Schultz was a retired Louisville, Ky., policeman, so a local judge made

Schultz a special deputy. Schultz picked Campbell up at the jail, supervised him during the service, and returned him to jail. One of the stipulations for Campbell's release was that he remain in handcuffs throughout the service.

Following his baptism, Campbell began writing to church members and working through the Survival Kit for New Christians. "I don't think Jeff had ever experienced as much love and acceptance as he felt at our church," Wood said.

About two weeks after Campbell completed the Survival Kit, he was released from jail following a bond reduction.

However, soon after his release, it was learned that the primary informant against Campbell was wanted on drug charges in another state. As a result, all charges against Campbell were dropped.

In addition to Campbell finding Christ during his run-in with the law, his wife also prayed to receive Christ. Wood says the Campbells are both now active at the church and working to build a new life in Christ.

Heading writes for the INDIANA BAPTIST, newsjournal of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.



YOUTH NIGHT — Approximately 12,000 attended Mississippi Baptist Youth Night on July 24 at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson. Overflow crowds filled the Trade Mart building next door. (See story, page 4.)

Southern Baptists "turned the corner" on controversial issues

Southern Baptists "turned the corner" on the controversy this year, Hobbs suggested. "I think we turned the corner in Indianapolis," he said, referring to the June annual SBC meeting in that Indiana city.

Further, Hobbs cited division among conservatives over Houston Judge Paul Pressler's nomination as a Foreign Mission Board trustee as evidence of change. The fact that some leading fundamental-conservative pastors opposed Pressler's nomination indicates the group is not as "monolithic" as some thought, he said.

Instead of dying, the convention is going through a periodic "course correction," Hobbs asserted. "This time, because of the politics, we're going to come back a little to the right of center, but it won't last long," he said.

Amazingly, Hobbs has come through years of high-profile involvement in SBC conflicts with few serious critics and claims to

have friends "in all strains of beliefs."

That has been possible, he said, because his beliefs are in the middle, "where old-time Southern Baptists have been and where they are now if they only knew the terms going around."

Hobbs said he doesn't like the labels that get put on people with different viewpoints. He explained that he doesn't want to be remembered either as a conservative or a moderate but as an "old-time Baptist."

"I want to be known as someone who believes the Bible and has done my best to understand it," he said.

Wingfield is news director for WESTERN RECORDER, Kentucky.

1992 Youth Night

Event nets 75 professions of faith, 167 other decisions

By Teresa Dickens

Participants to the 1992 Youth Night came from every corner of Mississippi. Some were from small, rural churches. Others came from large, metropolitan churches. Despite their background, the approximately 12,000 youths and leaders who filled the Mississippi Coliseum and spilled over into the Trade Mart July 24, shared a common goal: They came to celebrate their faith and have a good time with other Christians.

And that they did. Whether they were responding to a number by the contemporary Christian group "4-Him," a skit by Christian dramatists Paul and Nicole Johnson, or a comment from keynote speaker Jack Millwood, the sound made by the audience was at times, deafening.

One of the loudest responses from the group came when someone announced that this year's Youth Night, an annual event sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, drew a bigger crowd than a recent concert by a popular rock-n-roll group.

But the hype of the 1992 Youth Night program was not the only thing that got the attention of the audience. The youths also responded to the program leaders' challenges to take their relationship with Jesus Christ seriously. Over 240 decisions — including 75 professions of faith, 120 rededications and 13 commitments to full-time Christian service — were recorded by counselors during the invitation.

The Johnsons, a husband and wife team from Nashville, Tenn., challenged the teens to surrender their lives to Christ's control. One of the skits performed by the Johnsons depicted a couple who owned a sail boat, but never raised the sail when on the lake because the wife was afraid of what would happen if they did. Finally, the husband raised the sail over his wife's protest. To her

surprise, it was a wonderful experience.

Christians are often like that woman, the couple said. In refusing to live a Christ-centered life, Christians miss the blessings that God has for them.

"God loves us," Mrs. Johnson shared. "He is the only one who loves us for who we are and not for what we do. Draw near to Christ," she encouraged.

Millwood, a pastor from Mobile, Ala., told the teenagers that their decision about a personal relationship with Jesus Christ is the most important decision they can make.

"Stop letting the crowd who doesn't know Jesus intimidate you," Millwood declared. "Turn the peer pressure around. The next time one of them asks you if you follow Jesus, say, 'Yes I belong to Jesus and I'm proud of it. If you had any sense you would too.'

"You can't ignore Jesus," he said. "You've got to decide what you are going to do with him."

While calling Youth Night a "tremendous success," organizers said the overcrowding experienced at the Mississippi Coliseum continues to create problems for them as well as attendees.

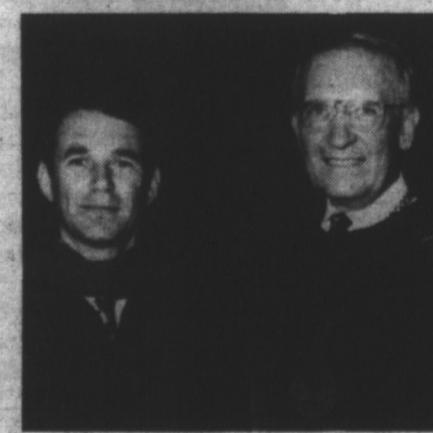
"We know people are disappointed when they cannot get a seat in the coliseum," remarked Graham Smith, chairman of the 1992 Youth Night Committee. "We hope to come up with a solution to the situation before next year. We appreciate everyone's cooperation and understanding in dealing with the problem."

Graham also expressed appreciation to other Youth Night committee members in helping make this year's event a success. The other members were Eric Barron of New Albany; Jim Lott of Pearl; Phil Walker of Madison; Hal Kitchings and Gary Maze both of Clinton; Susan Clark, Stanley Henriques Jr., Gary Phillips, and Larry Salter, all of Jackson.

Mississippians receive degrees from SWBTS

Mississippian Lowell Davis Golmon (pictured at right with seminary President Russell H. Dilday) received a doctoral degree from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, during commencement ceremonies July 10.

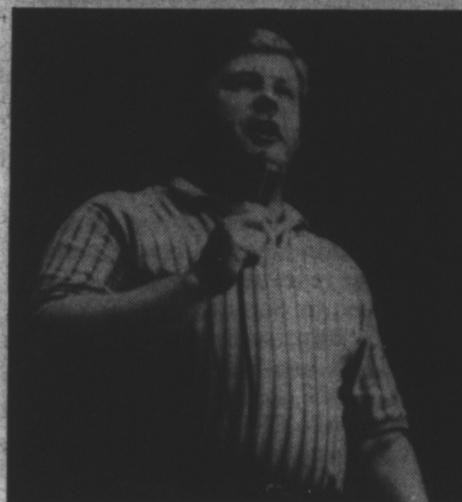
Other Mississippians receiving degrees from the seminary during the commencement were: Clovis H. Barnett Jr., Elizabeth O. Thurmond, and Donald S. Hines, the master of arts in religious education; and Mark L. Mathis, the master of divinity.



Golmon, Dilday



Nicole and Paul Johnson (top) used drama and dialogue to remind participants at this year's Youth Night of God's unconditional love for them. Jack Millwood (bottom) reiterated the message by calling on the youths to live a life "sold out to Jesus," and cautioned them about the consequences of "selling out to peer pressure." Hundreds of youths responded to the evening's messages, either by talking with a Youth Night counselor or finding a spot to pray. (Photos by Teresa Dickens)



HMB hopes to enlist 250 "key" churches by '95

ATLANTA (BP) — A new Home Mission Board program hopes to enlist 250 Southern Baptist churches to sponsor five or more church missions by the end of 1995, the project director said.

Congregational starts and ministry programs are at the heart of the "Key Church" program, said J.V. Thomas, national director for the new Home Mission Board strategy.

The Key Church program offers resources and guidance to churches committed to supporting new congregations and ministry programs, said Thomas.

The program also encourages stronger churches to assist their state convention or younger state conventions with church starting, said

David Bunch, HMB assistant vice president for strategy development.

A key church, as defined by the program's outline:

- prioritizes missions to the level of the church's religious education or music programs.

- establishes a missions development council.

- elects a director or minister of missions.

- starts five church missions or ministry programs each year.

- sponsors at least five missions on a continuous basis.

Thomas claims it's logical to dedicate emphasis and resources to such churches because missions-oriented congregations are responsible for a large percentage of baptisms

and Cooperative Program giving.

The program also should result in the planting of more indigenous congregations in and around the church buildings of the older state conventions, Thomas said.

Churches enlisting in the key church program will have access to planning and consultation work with state and national advisers as well as training conferences and seminars, Thomas said.

For more information contact Thomas at (404) 898-3002.

Liberty, DeKalb celebrates 150th

Liberty Church, DeKalb, will observe its 150th anniversary with a week-long celebration that includes special worship services, meals, youth activities, and dedication of a new archway at the entrance to the church cemetery.

The celebration will begin Aug. 9, when the 11 a.m. special worship service will be conducted by former pastor James Walker. Lunch will be served after the service, followed by a reading of the history of the church, and the dedication of the cemetery archway.

Nightly services will be held at 7:30 p.m. beginning Aug. 10, concluding on Aug. 14. Former pastors will host the services, each of which will honor a neighboring church. A meal will be served each night at 6 p.m.

Max Burris, minister of music at Northcrest Church, Meridian, will lead song services.

For more information, contact Dorothy Allen at (601) 693-1306.

Delta Bible Conference slated for August 2-5

The Mississippi Delta Bible Conference will be held Aug. 2-5 at Second Church in Indianola, according to Pastor Garry Burkacki.

"Only a dream for the past three years, the conference is now ready to become an annual reality. We are planning, preparing and praying along with many others for four days of glorious praise and anointed preaching," he said.

Conference sessions will begin at 6 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 2. On Monday, Aug. 3 through Wednesday, Aug. 5, sessions will begin at 9:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m., and 7:45 p.m. Nursery will be provided for all sessions.

The conference program in-

cludes Paul Tsika, international Bible conference speaker; his wife, Billie, who will be singing; Herb Hodges, former pastor of Cherokee Church in Memphis; Bill Causey, executive director/treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Jim Hill, pastor of Calvary Church in Columbia, and his wife, Cheryl, vocalist/pianist; Leon Kilbreth, noted Southern Baptist Sunday School authority; Gerald and Cindy Simmons, song leaders; and Susanne McLendon, vocal-

ist.

For more information, contact Second Church in Indianola at (601) 887-3460, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

October women's conference set, speakers announced

Dell (Mrs. Vince) Scoper of Laurel and Joy (Mrs. Lewis) Nobles of Clinton are co-chairpersons for an upcoming women's conference.

The conference will take place at Mississippi College in Clinton, Oct. 8-10, with the theme "Lead On."

Sponsored by Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, the conference is not a WMU program, according to organizers. It is for all women, particularly those not directly involved in WMU.

Guests include Joyce Landorf Heatherly, writer and speaker; Lynne Cheney, author and chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities; Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of WMU, SBC; and musician Cynthia Clawson.

Program personalities from Mississippi will include Pat Fordice, Mississippi's First Lady; Patricia (Mrs. Trent) Lott; Marjorie Kelly; Dottie Hudson; Lisa Leavell; Josephine Bryan; Dottie Williamson; and Linda Donnell.

Cost of the conference is \$20 which includes lunch on Saturday. Register with: Women's Conference, Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Local coordinators are Rose-



Scoper

Nobles

Mary Aultman, Dorothy Carpenter, and Sandra Nash, all of Clinton.

Other planning committee members include Joyce Beasley, Tupelo; Becky Bennett, Ripley; Deborah Brunt, Corinth; Charlotte Causey, Clinton; Elizabeth Cooper, Yazoo City; Betty Dobbs, Clinton; Linda Donnell, Hattiesburg; Bobbie Foster, Prentiss; Barbara Jones, Greenville; Toni Kee, Woodville; Marjorie Kelly, Jackson; Jerry Kemp, Columbia; Linda Lamar, Tupelo; Carolyn Orr, Jackson; Marty Perkins, Moss Point; Cindy Rice, Laurel; Cissa Richardson, Madison; Martha Sinclair, Ruth; Ann Vickery, Greenville; Carroll Waller, Jackson; Diane White, Meridian; Josephine White, Greenville; Gail Wicker, Tupelo; Jean Williams, Jackson; and Ollie Thomas, Hattiesburg.

Program personalities from Mis-

sissippi will include Pat Fordice,

Mississippi's First Lady; Patricia

(Mrs. Trent) Lott; Marjorie Kelly;

Dottie Hudson; Lisa Leavell;

Josephine Bryan; Dottie Williamson;

and Linda Donnell.

Cost of the conference is \$20 which includes lunch on Saturday.

Register with: Women's Conference, Woman's Missionary Union,

P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Local coordinators are Rose-

Robinson, Sigrests to lead Tallahatchie County crusade

Home Mission Board Vice President Darrell Robinson will be the evangelist during the Aug. 9-14 Tallahatchie County Crusade for Christ. The crusade, scheduled for 8 each evening at Strider Academy, also will feature Yazoo City music evangelists R.L. and Beth Sigrest.



Robinson

Robinson, vice president for evangelism at the HMB, also will

speak during a kick-off service at 7 p.m. Aug. 2 at First Church, Charleston. The public is invited to attend each of the services.

Robinson, who was pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., before joining the HMB staff, is a graduate of Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Fla. In addition to the Alabama pastorate, he has been pastor of churches in Texas and Kansas. He also is author of *Total Church Life*.

For additional information, contact the Tallahatchie Association at (601) 627-3417.

WCC establishes scholarship aiding ministerial students

A scholarship program aiding students preparing for denominational ministries has been established by William Carey College, Hattiesburg, according to Larry Kennedy, dean of the college's Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies.

The scholarship, totaling \$600 for full-time students and \$300 for half-time students, will be awarded annually, based on nominations from Mississippi

Baptist associations. Students preparing for vocations in pastoral ministry, youth, education, music, missions and counseling are eligible for the scholarship.

Students interested in applying for the scholarship should contact the director of missions in their home association, or Hardy Denham, coordinator of WCC's Church Related Vocational Programs, phone (800) 862-5991.

Attala DOM will retire Sept. 30

Paul B. Williamson Jr. has announced his retirement as director of missions for the Attala County Baptist Association, effective Sept. 30. He has served five years in that office.

Prior to becoming DOM, he pastored for 34 years in Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia, and Florida.

He and his wife Mary will move to Florida, where he will serve the Fellowship Baptist Church, Steinbachee.

Prospective directors of missions for Attala Association may send resumes to: Wilbur Brunt, Search Committee Chairman, 209 Woodland Drive, Kosciusko, MS 39090.

Thursday, July 30, 1992

Warnke denies allegations, stands by original testimony

RED WING, Minn. (EP) — Christian comedian Mike Warnke, whose testimony of being a former high priest of Satan was recently challenged by a *Cornerstone* magazine investigation, released a statement July 15 denying the allegation contained in the *Cornerstone* article, and standing by the story of his life he told in the best-selling book, *The Satan Seller*.

In a 12-page response, Warnke condemned the *Cornerstone* article as "malicious," "shocking," and "misleading and inaccurate." Warnke Ministries also provided statements of support by other people who have been associated with Warnke.

The *Cornerstone* article quoted friends and relatives who knew Warnke at the time he claims to have been a high priest of Satan, who say they saw no evidence of such occult activity. It also pointed out internal problems with the timeline of

Warnke's testimony as presented in his books and tapes.

The statement Warnke issued in response does not directly address the timeline problems, but he does respond to the contrary claims of people who knew him during his "Satan Seller" days. He states, "I simply ask, 'How would they know?' A veil of secrecy covers the activities of most satanist [activities] even now — and this was especially true during my experiences during the 1960s. ... Casual acquaintances well might not have noticed."

Warnke asserts, "I stand by my testimony of being delivered and set free by the power of Jesus Christ after being a satanic high priest exactly as published in my book, *The Satan Seller*. It is an unusual accusation to be charged with 'Not being as bad as you claim.' Sadly, I was deeply involved in the occult, including the conducting of grisly, evil, secret rituals, and the

recruitment of new members, into satanic practices."

A statement by Roland Lundy, president of Word, Inc., Warnke's publisher, says, "In response to recent allegations about the integrity of Mike Warnke's ministry, Word, Inc., met with Mike and conducted follow-up on the areas in question. Information the company received reinforces our confidence in his ministry. We are pleased to be associated with Mike Warnke, recognizing the strength of his ministry, and that our partnership with him has opened up new avenues of reaching people for Christ."

The Word statement acknowledges that Christian comedy is "sometimes misunderstood" and says that Warnke's style includes "storytelling, exaggerations, and short vignettes." It also emphasizes that only one of the 13 Warnke products distributed by Word is centered on Warnke's occult past.

Beech Grove celebrates 125th year

Members of Beech Grove Church, Pattison, will celebrate the 125th anniversary of the founding of their church, Aug. 2.

Dan Champion, pastor of Beech Grove in 1965, will be the featured speaker. Gage Hyrum, pastor in 1979, will lead the music.

Talmadge Smith, director of missions for Copiah-Lincoln Association, will represent the Historical Commission, and a dinner on the grounds is planned for the afternoon.

Eddie Bates is pastor, Beech Grove.

Seminary extension will offer Greek

NEW ORLEANS — The schedule has been announced for Term I of the 1992-93 academic year for the Mississippi extension center of New Orleans Seminary.

For the first time, New Orleans Seminary will offer "Introductory Greek Grammar," taught by Gene Henderson, pastor of First Church, Brandon. The classes will meet from 8 a.m.-noon at First Church, Clinton.

The "History of Christianity" will be taught by Dan Holcomb; "Introduction to Christian Ethics" will be taught by Paul G. Jones.

Registration will be held in Provine Chapel Aug. 17, 4-6 p.m.

For more information or to apply, contact the Registry Office, New Orleans Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126-4895; or call 1-800-662-8701.

Church and associational leaders of single adults and senior adults will receive special training at Lake Tiak O'Khata, Aug. 14-15. Four and one-half hours of practical help is being offered by the Discipleship Training Family Ministry Section of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board on that Friday night and Saturday morning.

Separate conferences will be provided for associational single adult leaders, church single adult leaders, associational senior adult leaders, and church senior adult leaders. Billy Holyfield, minister of single adults and outreach at Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, will lead the workshop for associational single adult leaders.

Ann Gardner Melton, former single adult leadership development consultant at the Baptist Sunday School Board, now minister of single adults at First Church, Huntsville, Ala., is leader for the church single adult leaders workshop.

W. Levon Moore, former pastor and association director of

missions, will lead the workshop for senior adult associational leaders. Roger Alewine, associate pastor and minister of senior adults, is the leader for the church senior adult leaders workshop.

The schedule begins with supper at 6 p.m. Friday and concludes with lunch on Saturday. Dr. Eugene Dobbs, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board administrative assistant for ministry, will provide a challenge to ministry at the supertime.

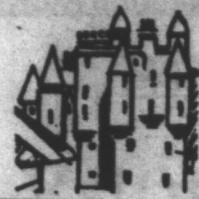
The cost for the event is \$45 per person double occupancy. Associational leaders will receive full scholarships. Registrations and reservations may be made with the Family Ministry Section, Discipleship Training Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. To register and request a reservation, indicate the workshop to be attended, roommate requested, if any, and enclose the full payment. Registrations may not be received after Aug. 7.

Former Washington, D.C., pastor Trentham killed in auto accident

ALAMOSA, Colo. (BP) — Charles A. Trentham, President Jimmy Carter's pastor at First Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., was killed July 22 in a triple-fatality afternoon auto accident near Alamosa, a south-central Colorado city 30 miles from the New Mexico border.

Trentham, 73, was pastor of First Church in Washington from 1974-79. The previous 20 years, he was pastor of First Church in Knoxville, Tenn. He had been pastor of Church of the Redeemer near Knoxville since the mid-1980s; the church is affiliated with the National Council of Community Churches.

Thursday, July 30, 1992



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



The measure of my days

"Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days.... Behold, thou hast made my days as a handbreadth...." (Psalm 39:4,5).

How will I use all these golden hours of free time that retirement has handed to me? Now is my chance to fulfill some dreams. I just have to list the dreams, decide which ones I most want to come true, and which ones fit in best with what I believe to be the Lord's purpose for my life.

Will I begin today, this week, this month? First, I'll write out goals I must reach as I climb toward fulfillment of each dream — what I need to do, how much at the time, how often, and when. Simple. Right? Write the goals on a calendar in the proper time slots. When the proper time arrives, do them!

As Charlotte Hale Allen wrote, "God holds me accountable not only for the way I live my life, but also for the way I plan or fail to plan exactly what I hope that life will contain." She refers to Proverbs 16:9: "A man's mind plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps and makes them sure."

I don't want to tie myself down to an inflexible schedule to which I must be a slave, before I have time to fulfill a little of my "do nothing" dream! Yet I know they say that "procrastination is the thief of time."

It's important, I believe, to develop and do nice things for every part of yourself — mind, body, and spirit. Keeping this in mind, I've set down a few dreams (certainly not all my dreams, and maybe not even the topmost, but just a starting point) and figured out some goals that might lead toward their coming true.

Dream: Lose 20 pounds.

Immediate goals: This month, beginning today, walk a mile a day, probably in the evening after the weather has cooled. Ride bicycle a mile each morning, first thing after I get up, every day this month. Join water aerobics class that begins July 20. Plan month's menus (tonight) with low-cholesterol, non-sweet dishes, including lots of fruits, vegetables, green salads, fish, and chicken.

Dream: Make extra money for travel through freelance writing, and at the same time keep my mind active.

Immediate goals: Send one article to a magazine each week for the next four weeks, the first one this Friday. Begin preparations for writing a book, from personal experiences. Set aside an hour a day next week to begin indexing 16 years of personal columns by subject, and to place personal journals in chronological order. Re-read Edith Schaeffer's autobiographical book, *Tapestry*.

Dream: Stop leaning toward

being a hermit and do more things with and for others.

Immediate goals: Do at least one thing for someone else every day. (Thursday, take a pie out to that lonely woman in the nursing home. Friday, write a letter to a friend who is grieving. Next Tuesday, go fishing with my husband.) Find a way to meet more internationals, as possible volunteer outlet and as witnessing opportunity. Go with Senior Sunshiners of Morrison Heights to the Indian Fair July 16 as a way to get to know these fellow church members better.

Dream: To own a clean, neat, attractive house and yard.

Immediate goals: List house projects. Do at least one a week. Work in yard at least 30 minutes a day.

Dream: To know God better.

Immediate goals: Increase prayer and Bible study time, beginning with 30 minutes in early mornings (BEFORE reading the paper). Sign up for an hour of prayer in the church's intercessory prayer program. Begin again to write my prayers, as it keeps my mind from wandering. Take time to sit on the patio and enjoy the birds and squirrels and trees and to thank God for the beauties of his world. Right now, thank him for his promise in Proverbs 8:17: "I love those who love me and those who seek me find me."

Historical Commission urges churches to report anniversaries

Baptist Church Centennial Recognition is an ongoing program of the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission. In a recent meeting at the Commission Library on the Mississippi College campus, commissioners noted that from April through September of this year, a minimum of 17 state churches celebrated anniversaries ranging from 100 to 150 years. Of this number, four celebrated the 150th anniversary. Included in this group were Pleasant Ridge, Union County; Enon, Winston County; First, Nettleton, Lee County; and Houston, Chickasaw County.

Commissioners or other representatives present framed certificates at these centennial celebrations. All churches are urged to notify the commission office at Box 4024, Clinton, MS 39058 as

plans are launched for their anniversary celebrations.

In addition, the commission urges all churches to send copies of any type of historical materials that can be preserved for posterity regularly to the commission.

Nine commissioners attempt to meet annually with the approximately 35 churches that are celebrating anniversaries for 100, 125, or 150 years. Mississippi Baptists may be surprised to realize that three dozen or more churches in our state each year reach these longevity plateaus.

Mrs. Marvin Bond of Starkville currently serves as commission president; Jack Gunn of Cleveland, as executive director; Edward McMillan of Clinton, as advisor; and Mrs. Alice Cox, as commission librarian.



NEW BUILDING — Tishomingo County Baptist Association recently held a dedication and open house reception in recognition of the completion of the director of missions' new house. The 1,800-foot dwelling was built with many hours of volunteer labor. Charles Stubblefield, former DOM, was the speaker. Roger S. Dorsett is currently serving as director of missions.

God's love practiced in the "Pearl of Africa"...

Ugandan population undergoes severest outbreak of AIDS virus — half the population could die in the next four years

By Dan Wooding

When self-appointed President Idi Amin, the infamous "Butcher of Kampala," finally fled his country of Uganda more than 13 years ago, he left some half a million of his countrymen dead in a horrendous holocaust. Between 1971-1979, the despot Idi Amin went on an orgy of bloodshed in which Ugandans were shot, tortured, and battered to death. A majority of those who were killed — possibly as many as 300,000 — were Ugandan Christians. A succession of Uganda's leaders, including Milton Obote, have seen the total killing in the land rise to a possible one million.

Amin, a murderous clown president who did all this in the name of the Muslim faith, now cowers in Saudi Arabia, while Ugandans now face an even worse curse on the land than even him — AIDS.

The Ugandan government estimates that half of the population of this tiny land-locked African country, is infected with the HIV virus

and Uganda-watchers estimate that something like half of the population of 18 million could die from it within the next three to four years. This could leave Uganda, a nation about one-third the size of Wisconsin, populated largely by the elderly and orphaned children. The rest would be dead from AIDS.

Now a former professional Canadian football player had dedicated himself to aiding these AIDS victims. He is Peter Simon Turko, founder of God's Love to Uganda, a California-based ministry aiming to set up AIDS hospices for the victims of what is turning out to be Uganda's greatest holocaust.

The holocaust of Idi Amin is like a kindergarten party compared with what is sweeping the land today," said Turko. "It is now estimated that 50% of the 18 million population are HIV positive.

"Some people feel that Uganda will be so decimated that it will not be able to exist as a nation, because so much of its talented

people will be dead," he noted.

One Ugandan told National Geographic, "It is as if we have been cursed for all the terrible things we have done to each other."

"The stigma of having AIDS in Uganda is so terrible," Turko remarked, "that it's like modern-day leprosy. These people with the AIDS virus have been rejected as modern-day lepers by most of their families and friends, and millions have been left to die horrendous deaths in darkened huts throughout the country. They often die in their excrement."

"People stand along the road to the clinics and mock people coming in for an AIDS test," he continued. "Some turn around and go back to the village to die — nine out of 10 who are tested HIV positive.

"In Uganda, AIDS affects both sexes equally," Turko explained. "The ratio of male to female is one-to-one. Hardly a home has escaped from this plague that has

hit Uganda harder than any other land on earth. It is called the 'slim disease' there because of the skeletal appearance of victims in the last stages of the disease.

"Jesus went with his message of love and salvation to those who everyone else rejected. We should do the same."

Turko, who became an international nightclub entertainer after retiring from professional football, recalled that during a recent visit to a Kampala hospital, he was told that 99 babies had been born that day and all were HIV positive.

"The stories everywhere you go in Uganda are terrible," said the evangelical missionary. "The principal of a trade school in the capital told me that he was now caring for 20 children, all orphans from his three brothers and one sister who had died from AIDS-related illnesses. The latest figures on AIDS orphans is that the disease has left 1.5 million Uganda children orphans."

In response, Turko, with the support of the Ugandan government, has launched an appeal to help fund AIDS hospices in the East African country. Each hospice will house up to 500 AIDS patients and will be staffed by Christian medical staff and Ugandans whose illness has not incapacitated them. The first hospice is scheduled to be built in Rakai District, a poor, isolated area where the first case of AIDS was diagnosed in 1984.

"The purpose of the hospices is to minister God's love to these people," he shared. "We will take care of them medically and also minister the Word of God to these people, have church choirs visit, show them Christian films, and turn them in the direction of eternal life. We want these people to learn about the love of God and to be able to die with dignity."

Wooding is a syndicated newspaper columnist and commentator for the UPI Radio Network in Washington, D.C.



Letters to the editor

Baptist ticket?

Editor:

Regarding the Greg Warner article in your July 16th edition entitled "Clinton, Gore give voters first all-Baptist ticket," I would offer the following observations:

Perhaps I have tunnel vision, but I fail to see how anyone can refer to himself as Southern Baptist, or for that matter Christian, and in the same breath espouse pro-choice (a term I believe to be a euphemism for pro-murder) and pro-homosexual/lesbian rights philosophies.

First, let me attempt to deal with the issue of abortion. The Old and New Testaments both deal specifically with God's vision of, and love for, children. The Old Testament says in Psalms 127:3: "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward." The New Testament says in Matthew 19:13-14: "Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, 'Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven'" (KJV). The conclusion, it seems to me, is inescapable. Abortion, no matter what terms it is couched in, equals murder.

As with the subject of children, the Old and New Testaments both deal extensively with the subject of homosexuality. In Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13 in the Old Testament, and 1 Corinthians 6:9 and 1 Timothy 1:10 in the New Testament, the Holy Scripture specifically forbids homosexuality. Even someone totally unfamiliar with the Bible would be hard put to misunderstand what God has to say concerning the homosexual lifestyle, and I'm inclined to believe that both Clinton and Gore have more than a passing acquaintance with the Word of God. If that is indeed the case, then I am forced to conclude that their position on these two vital issues is not just misguided, it is unconscionable.

Rick Ralston
Greenwood

Regarding Clinton, Gore

Editor:

I read Greg Warner's article with interest. It is indeed remarkable that one of our political parties has selected two candidates for the highest positions in our land from the Southern Baptist denomination.

However, I hope that you will give equal time to the other side of the story. They are running on the Democratic Party platform which supports abortion and homosexuality — two areas that Baptists have taken a strong stand against. This platform also embraces the radical feminist movement, which asserts that women are not subject to any male authority, within the family

or in the work force. Obviously, both of these positions are distortions of God's Word.

I pray that all Southern Baptists will carefully consider the platforms of the party which candidates represent before they cast their vote this fall.

Jo Patterson
Jackson

Candidates are pro-abortion

Editor:

As I read the July 16th issue of the *Baptist Record*, in which Greg Warner, editor of the Associated Baptist Press, wrote about having the first all Southern Baptist presidential ticket, I thought, "So what!" If these men stood for the same values that most Southern Baptist stood for it would be great, but these men don't even believe an unborn child has a chance to come into this world! They don't believe God is in control and needs help deciding who belongs in this world (Rev 1:18).

The Southern Baptists dropped the ball back in 1971 when they "urged Baptists to work for legislation permitting abortion under certain conditions...." It took over nine years to reverse this position. It wasn't until 1984 that "we" opposed abortion in cases involving rape or incest.

My deepest prayer is "Christians" will prayerfully seek God's direction about which presidential candidates to support because of what they stand for and not what denomination they claim to belong. I believe if we would ask ourselves who Jesus would vote for, I don't believe he would be voting for a candidate who stands for abortion on demand (Matt. 6:33).

Kim Puckett
Petal

Disturbed by article

Editor:

I was somewhat disturbed as I read the ABP article in a recent issue of the *Record* calling the readers' attention to the fact that both Bill Clinton and Albert Gore attend Baptist churches. I can only assume and trust that this was not an endorsement, although it seemed to solicit approval and "Southern Baptist pride."

"Supporting our own" is often commendable, I strongly urge all readers to weigh carefully the platform these Baptist brethren represent, and recognize that there are inconsistencies therein.

Predominantly, I believe a pro-choice position is not consistent with the Word of God. As America continues to politicize the moral issue of abortion on demand, a subtle desensitization has occurred and we find ourselves minimizing the sacredness of human life as a daily fetal holocaust transpires. Meanwhile we sing, "God Bless America?"

The battle lines are drawn in a great Civil War of Moral Values in these United States, and Christians of all denominations must be vigilant over their votes and other avenues of influence.

Paula Sartor
Clinton

Losing our children

Editor:

Please continue to print articles on school prayer like you did last week. But don't just print articles, encourage people to do something: Pray, write letters, whatever. Please print names and addresses of people in "high-up" places that we can write letters to — letting them know that the people of America want some Supreme Court justices put in office, when some new ones are appointed, who will make some changes. We must do something! We are losing our children.

May God bless your efforts.
Mrs. David Wise
Poplarville

Need only be Baptist?

Editor:

Had I read the article "Clinton, Gore gives voters first all-Baptist ticket" in a secular paper, I would have thought it was a "slap" or a "dig" at the Baptist denomination.

No, these two may not have any secret of their affiliation with Baptist churches, only things of lesser importance like very liberal voting records.

Gore is a bigger spender of taxpayers' money than Teddy Kennedy (that's no easy task, either).

And, let's not forget, their party is the one that got prayer removed from all public functions.

Personally, I am embarrassed that they have made public their affiliation. All Baptists should be, if this is any indication of what our Sunday Schools are turning out.

I hope Warner is not trying to tell people that all a candidate needs to be is a "Baptist." Personally, I'm looking for someone who has honesty, integrity, morality, and will give us constitutional governing.

M. Forbes
Senatobia

Putting out fires

Editor:

In many ways, pastoral service is similar to fighting fires. Both services are often overlooked until they are needed.

It is no surprise that many pastors become involved with local fire departments as volunteer firefighters or as chaplains. Three examples in Mississippi are: Frank Gunn, Randy Rich, and myself.

Gunn, pastor of First Church, Biloxi, was appointed chaplain of the Biloxi Fire department in 1975. He had been active until recent health problems slowed his pace. Gunn still holds special ser-

vices during Fire Prevention Week for firefighters and their families.

Rich, pastor of Trinity Church, Vicksburg, began his fire service in 1977, while a staff member at a church in West Jefferson County, Ala. Rich later served three years as chaplain for the Birmingham Fire Department, and as Protestant chaplain for the New Orleans Fire Department. Rich returned to the volunteer ranks with the Gloster Fire Department in Amite County. He now serves as chaplain for Vicksburg Fire Department.

I serve as pastor of Southside Church, Aberdeen. I became involved in the fire service in 1982 while serving as pastor of First Church, Mt. Olive.

Being called out while preaching was never a problem with me. I made it clear from the beginning I would not be available to respond during church services. Members of First, Mt. Olive, were supportive of having a firefighting pastor; I was willing to participate in community activities and make myself more visible to the community.

When asked about the importance of chaplains in a fire department, Biloxi Fire Department Chief Steve Moore said, "It's nice to know you have someone you can call on any time of the day or night."

Ken Walters
Aberdeen

Big deal

Editor:

In a very recent copy of the *Record* I noticed someone made mention of the fact that Bill Clinton and Al Gore are both Baptist. Really! Tell that person to check a bit further and that person can find that the two senators from Mississippi to the U. S. Senate are both Baptist. They are now senators, but Gov. Clinton and Sen. Gore yet have to be elected. So, what is the "Big Deal?"

Iona Lott
Pascagoula

Remember Sodom and Gomorrah

Editor:

As a Christian, I'm deeply concerned over the agenda of national political parties. The parties have demonstrated the direction they want the United States to take. This direction is contrary to God's laws. Christians need to wake up to this insidious agenda.

Sadly, they are trying to cover this agenda with a superficial coating of environmental issues. As Christians, we have a prime directive from God to protect the environment. But to use this directive to cover-up non-Christian practices is an affront to all Christians.

The four directions that concern me most are: 1) their stand on abortion, 2) the "peddling" of homosexuality as an acceptable

lifestyle, 3) the feminist desire to eliminate the need for a father in the family, 4) their desire to make the government responsible for the individual.

God has established the family as the basic unit. All other organizations must work in conjunction with this unit. Any contrary direction is doomed to failure. We as Christians are charged by God to function within this basic unit. Therefore, we cannot support any non-Christian effort to eliminate the family or any other Christian values.

As Christians, we cannot afford to compromise our beliefs by supporting the current agenda. Please wake up before it is too late for this country. Remember the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Charles M. Ward
Grenada

Beware chaperons

Editor:

It's time of year for youth camps and retreats. I write to alert you pastors to be careful about who you send as chaperons. Do not send chaperons unless they are married couples. Don't send one man's wife with another woman's husband, even in multiples of this arrangement. The devil is out to destroy and all sorts of things can happen when people are together at these retreats and camps.

Pastors, please don't let a sad incident happen in your church. Send only married couples as chaperons.

Name withheld

Population is a strain

Editor:

The July 16th edition of the *Baptist Record* carried a letter to the editor by Karen Blakeney opposing an article in the June 25th issue on population control. She states that "family planning" is "Planned Parenthood, the largest abortion industry in our country."

True family planning, prevention of conception, is in no way a part of abortion. It is birth control by preventing conception. Nowhere in the Bible is birth control per se even alluded to.

According to her, the earth could support 40 billion people — eight times the present population. Many environmentalists and other scientists claim that the earth is groaning under the present population. A look at the starving hordes in East Africa, caused by over population, should convince one of the validity of their claims.

The problems of a 40-billion world population boggles the mind. The sky could not accommodate the demands of air traffic; air pollution would be intolerable; rivers would be open sewers; top soil erosion would rob the land of its productivity; much of wild life would disappear. These are only a few problems that would surface.

Marvin F. Strum
Jackson

Thursday, July 30, 1992

Names in the news



First Church, Leakesville, recently honored its pastor, **Michael Perry**, and his family, with an Appreciation Day after seven years of service to the church. Perry is also a chaplain with the Army National Guard, moderator for Greene Association, and a member of the convention board of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Pictured above are the Perrys: standing, left to right, David, Michael, Jason; seated, Angela and Jane.



William Gary Smith, pastor of First Church, Carriere, is pictured above receiving the keys to a new 1992 Buick Roadmaster from Gary Wayne Tarbeson. This is the 7th new car Smith has received during the 27 years he has served as pastor of the church.

Staff changes

Clayton Pope retired July 3 after 38 years as music, education, administration and senior adult ministry. He and his wife, Catherine, were honored with a reception July 9 at Raymond Road Church, Jackson, where he served for 12 1/2 years. He previously served as minister of music at Highland Church, Jackson, for 17 years. Pope is available for music supply, revival, and interim work. His address is 234 Elms Court Circle, Jackson, MS 39204, or phone 372-2399.



Eden Church, Yazoo Association, has called **Jim Pender** as pastor effective July 12. He previously served Merrill Church, Merrill, Oregon.

First Church, Booneville, has added several new staff members. **Kathy Harris** is the new church organist. He previously served at First Church, Starkville. **David Duncan** has served this summer as youth minister. He served the past two years at First Church, Pearl. **Mrs. Kathy Goss** has been called

as interim children's coordinator and educational assistant. Bill Duncan is pastor.

East Booneville Church, Booneville, has called **Keith Cox** as minister of youth effective July 5. A native of Baldwyn, he received his education at Northeast Community College and is currently attending Mississippi State University. His previous place of service was Pine Grove Church, Tippah Association. Jim Holcomb is pastor.

Charles Broome, pastor of Rocky Hill Church, Smith Association, since 1980 has resigned, effective July 1. He is available for the pastorate, interim supply, or revivals and can be contacted at 758-3718.

Holcomb Church, Holcomb, has called **Randall Ashley** as pastor, effective June 28. A native of Memphis, Tenn., he is a graduate of Crichton College and Mid-America Seminary. His previous place of service was Tillotoba Church, Tillotoba.



Doug Lee, pastor of Sauls Valley Church, Monticello, recently led a 25-man mission team to Honduras. While there, they report, 281 made professions of faith, 98 of whom were prisoners in the capitol city of Tegucigalpa.

Chris Aldridge of Verona was ordained June 14 by his home church, First, Verona. He last served at First, Houlka as minister of children and youth, and presently serves as pastor of High Hill Church.

A. W. "Tony" Lambert recently began his pastorate at the Westside Baptist Church in Omaha, Neb. He was previously pastor at Pine Grove Church, Picayune, and Dublin Church, Prentiss. Lambert is a native of Sumrall and a graduate of William Carey College. He fills the pastorate left open by Calvin A. Miller, who accepted a position with Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Dianne Foster, church secretary at First Church, New Albany, participated in an Outdoor Leadership

Lab in May at Camp McCall, Pickens, S.C. Foster completed the climbing and rappelling course on rock faces in Brevard, N.C., and was among six Mississippians who participated in the lab. Outdoor Leadership Lab is sponsored by the Church Recreation Department of the Sunday School Board and the Brotherhood Commission of the SBC.



Foster

To reach tomorrow's leaders, today's leaders are going back to school. School of Evangelism and Church Growth Ridgecrest, September 8-11, 1992 1 800 634-2462



Crystal Ridge Church, Winston Association, ordained **Jimmy Collins** to the ministry June 28. Collins has been called to pastor Antioch Church, Winston County. Pictured with Collins, left, is Sterling Davis, pastor of Crystal Ridge.

Study shows 38% of adults very likely to support boycott

TUPELO, MS — A new study shows that 38% of adults would be "very likely" to participate in a boycott of TV advertisers who sponsor sex, violence, profanity, and non-traditional values and morals.

The study, done by Barna Research Group, showed that those most likely to participate in such a boycott are women (as a group) and persons who are married.

In total, 1,215 adults were interviewed in the study. A sample of that size provides data that are deemed accurate to within plus or minus three percentage points.

The study was commissioned by the American Family Association. AFA President Donald E. Wild-

mon said the purpose of the study was to measure public support for a planned boycott. AFA has already informed TV advertisers that it plans a major boycott of one or more of the leading sponsors of sex, violence, profanity, and anti-Christian content following monitoring this fall.

Other findings in the study:

— Only 3% rated TV programming excellent, while 19% rated it poor. Those giving TV the most favorable ratings were those with low levels of formal education and single adults.

— 72% said there is too much violence on TV, 65% said there is too much sex, and 57% said there is too much adult language and profanity.

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WOMEN

From page 3

the letter said. "Women on average possess 30% less speed, strength, stamina, agility, and endurance. Yet, the U.S. Military has attempted to obscure these stark differences in performance."

The letter also said voluntary admission of women to combat positions would result in mandatory assignments of women to combat and the inclusion of females in the draft.

Some of the fears expressed in the letter were underscored recent-

ly when it was reported 24 women had filed complaints of being raped or sexually assaulted by fellow soldiers while on duty in the Persian Gulf area during 1990 and '91.

Among those signing the letter were Beverly LaHaye, Concerned Women for America; Gary Bauer, Family Research Council; Phyllis Schlafly, Eagle Forum; Col. Oliver North, Freedom Alliance; Don Wildmon, American Family Association; Paul Weyrich, Coalitions for America; and Lt. Gen. Daniel Graham, High Frontier.

Strode is director, media & news information, Washington office, CLC.

Homecomings

North Batesville (Panola): Aug. 2; 25th anniversary; beginning 10 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall, 12:15 p.m.; afternoon singing, 1:30 p.m.; no night services; Rick Glidewell, pastor, speaker; Glorylanders, Winona, guest singers.

Rock Bluff (Rankin): Aug. 2; 10:45 a.m. R. C. Rice, Star, guest speaker; dinner on grounds, noon; no night services; Billy Rowzee, pastor.

Big Springs, Brookhaven (Lincoln): Aug. 2; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11; George Stewart, Pontotoc, guest speaker; "The Messengers," special music; dinner in fellowship hall, noon; afternoon singing; Gaston Jones, pastor.

First, Ridgeland: Aug. 2; 11 a.m. worship; Wayne Rowan, guest speaker; dinner in Family Life Center; no night services; no night services; Ed Griffin, pastor.

First, Tunica: Aug. 2; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; fellowship meal, 12:30; afternoon music, 2 p.m.

D'Lo Church, D'Lo: Aug. 2; Larry Chavis, guest speaker; Magnolia State Quartet, special music; afternoon worship.

Springhill Church, Knoxville: Aug. 2; revival, Aug. 2-5, 7 p.m. nightly; Sunday, 11 a.m. worship; Dennis Wilson, Mountain City, Tenn., guest speaker; Butch Reviere, Bogalusa, La., music.

Thursday, July 30, 1992

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Revival dates

Tyro (Northwest): July 26-31; James Tapp, Pascagoula, evangelist; Pappy Stone, Batesville, music; 7 p.m.; Gary Newton, pastor.

Wayside, Scobey: Aug. 2-7; Truman Scarborough, First, Coffeyville, evangelist; Kerron Moorman, Wayside, music; services, 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Calvary, Forest: Aug. 2-5; Donald Bozeman, Southside, Jackson, evangelist; John Ladd Jr., Calvary, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; 7:30 p.m., nightly; Martin Williams, pastor.

Crowder (North Delta): Aug. 2-7; Mike Burczynski, Van Winke, Jackson, evangelist; James Lewis, Meridian, music; services, 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Harvey Sewell, pastor.

Hardy (Grenada): Aug. 2-6; Hal Bates, Meadowood, Amory, evangelist; Ken Talley, North Winona, Winona, music; services, 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; J. Courtney Selby, pastor.

North Batesville (Panola): Aug. 3-7; Don Wilson, consultant, ministry office, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Curt Davis, North Batesville, music; 7:30 nightly; Rick Glidewell, pastor.

Harrisville (Simpson): Aug. 2-7; James E. Messer, Satsuma, Ala., evangelist; Rick Greene, Daniel Memorial, Jackson, music; 7 p.m. nightly; Dennis E. Allen, pastor.

Pearlhaven, Brookhaven: Aug. 2-5; John D. Wilton, Long Beach, evangelist; Sunday, 11 a.m., lunch, and 2 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Lonnie Case, pastor.

Pleasant Hill, Bogue Chitto: Aug. 2-7; Sunday, homecoming, dinner in fellowship hall, noon, and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Clarence Young, Sulphur, La., evangelist; Bobby Whittington, First, Sardis, music; Floyd F. Hogginbotham, pastor.

Friendship, Aberdeen: Aug. 2-5; Don Dunavant, Mid-America Seminary, Memphis, Tenn., evangelist; John Bailey, First, Lake Charles, La., music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Todd Bowen, pastor.

Antioch, Quitman: Aug. 2-7; Ed Holloman, Center Grove (Lauderdale), evangelist; Vondelle Avera, Antioch, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and lunch at 1 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Eugene Moffett, pastor.

Sardis, White Oak: Aug. 3-7; Robert Sones, D'Lo, evangelist; L. B. Smith, Sardis, music; 7:30 p.m. nightly; Steve White, pastor.

Rock Bluff (Rankin): Aug. 3-7; Roger Laird, Little Rock, evangelist; Ray Gates, Brandon, music; 7:30 p.m.; Billy Rowzee, pastor.

evangelist; David Shivers, pastor.

Main Street, Mendenhall: Aug. 2-5; Sunday, 11 a.m. dinner in fellowship hall, and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7:30 p.m.; Kermit McGregor, First, Mendenhall, evangelist; Lavon Gray, First, Wiggins, music; Dewitt Mitchell, pastor.

First, Lambert: Aug. 1-5; Carl White, Clarksdale, evangelist; Robert Shaw, West Marks, Marks, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7:30 p.m.; Stephen J. Huber, pastor.

Jayess (Lawrence): Aug. 2-7; Jimmy Yarbrough, interim pastor, evangelist; Daryl Petry, Newhebron, music; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.

Bluff Springs, Eupora: Aug. 2-7; Higdon Herrington, Victory, Mathiston, evangelist; 7 daily; Marion M. Tumberlinson, pastor.

Centerville (Carroll): Aug. 2-7; Sunday, homecoming, Eddie Carpenter, pastor, preaching at 11 a.m. service, lunch, singing in fellowship hall featuring the Johnson Family from Greenville; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m. with different speakers each night.

Bellevue, Hattiesburg: Aug. 2-7; Billy F. Duncan, Montgomery, Ala., evangelist; Randy LeBlanc, Lamesa, Texas, music; Sunday, Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., worship, 11 a.m., lunch in fellowship hall; and worship, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Mike Shumock, pastor.

Holly Springs (Lincoln): Aug. 2-7; Sunday, Glenn McInnis, pastor, preaching at 11 a.m., lunch, and Greg Potts, pastor, Heucks Retreat, speaking at 1 p.m. service; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 nightly; Greg Potts, evangelist; Clayton Hart, pastor, Nola, music.

Mt. Pisgah (Choctaw): Aug. 2-8; 9:45, Sunday School, 10:45, worship, lunch, and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Sat., 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; James Fortenberry, Eastside, Raleigh, evangelist; Pam Stafford, music; Charles McCollum, pastor.

Star (Rankin): Aug. 2-6; 7:30 p.m. nightly; Maurice Clayton, Jackson, evangelist; Tom Jenkins, Laurel, music; Gayden Harrell, pastor.

Mt. Gilead, Meridian: Aug. 9-14; Sunday, 10:45 a.m., 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Albert Wilkinson, evangelist; Brad and Tammy Jones, music; Jim Smith, pastor.

Rocky Point (Leake): Aug. 2-5; 7 p.m.; Carlton Jones, interim pastor, speaker.

Midway, Vardaman: Aug. 2-7; P. J. Scott, First, Olive Branch, evangelist; Larry Montgomery, Harrisburg, Tupelo, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Ralph Cain, pastor.

Just for the Record



The youth choir of First Church, Kosciusko, recently completed a tour to First, Verona; Parkway, Tupelo; Tusculum Hills, Nashville; and Opryland USA. The choir presented the musical "Live it to the Max," by

Nan and Dennis Allen. The program was also presented at Central Hills Retreat and at the choir's home church. Faye Wiggers is choir director.



First Church, Newton, recently held a music and missions night, in which all children's missions organizations were also recognized. Shown at left are Acteens who achieved the status of queen regent and queen. They are: seated, Amber Alexander; standing, left to right, Kimberly Pace, Joanna Gunter, and Carrie Weir.



Glendale Church, Leland, held a note burning May 31 to celebrate the retiring of the debt on the pastorium. Taking part in the ceremony were J. D. Lundy, former director of missions; Melvin Oglesby, chairman of deacons; and Mark Wasson, chairman of the building committee.

Church renewal training changed

The Church Renewal Training Conference scheduled for Aug. 8 at First Church, Hattiesburg, has been cancelled. The Church Renewal Training Conference at First Church, Grenada, is still scheduled for Aug. 15.

Vacation Bible Schools

Parkhill Church, Jackson: Aug. 3-7; 6:30-8:30 nightly; Family Night, Aug. 7, 7 p.m.; Nancy Lau, director; Jimmy Sellers, pastor.



A group of 31 youths and adults from Shady Grove Church, Batesville, recently returned from a mission trip to Hariana and Mt. Zion churches in Illinois. The group conducted two Bible studies daily, did survey work for the churches, and held a Bible school in the park. There were 17 professions of faith reported. John Stewart is pastor, Shady Grove.



GAs of Bethany Church, Prentiss, recently were recognized at a mother-daughter luncheon. Those receiving badges are pictured: front row, left to right, Brooke Hollingsworth, Lacy Taylor, Tiffany Ward, Joanna Ferguson; back row, Tiffani Coquat, Julie Smith, Leslie Hall, Krisi Langston, Audrey Davis, and Megan Miller. Not pictured are Tracy Rogers, Amy Burrow, Misty Burrow, and Missy Burrow.

MC alumni will hold rally

The Mississippi College Alumni Association will host its annual fall kick-off rally on Aug. 13, with the program celebrating a quarter century of service by Dr. and Mrs. Lewis Nobles as president and first lady.

Bernard Blackwell, director of alumni affairs, said the rally is being moved to the A. E. Wood Coliseum and will begin at 5 p.m. The supper line will open at 5:45 p.m.

Mail reservations to the Office of Alumni Affairs, Mississippi College, P. O. Box 4027, Clinton, MS 39058 or call (601) 925-3208 or 925-3276.



Liberty Church, Pontotoc, recently held a recognition service for four Acteens. They are, left to right, Carrie Cossey, queen with scepter; Jessica Staten, queen; Laura Thompson, queen; and Paula Staten queen.



A group from Strong Hope Church, Wesson, recently held Backyard Bible studies in Pascagoula, and were housed by Jackson Association at a dorm which was formerly the First Indian Baptist Church. Pictured are: front row, left to right, Joel and Joseph Ingram; second row, Holly Ferguson, Heather Bowlin, Carrie Butler, Misty Bell, Houston Morgan, Kris King, and Tracey King. Adults who attended (not shown) were: Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Ingram, Flo Callender, Drama Nunnery, Felicia McLendon, Lerline Kain, and Evelyn King. Ingram is pastor, Strong Hope.

MBMC lists activities

"Supermarket Adventures," how to read those labels, will be offered Aug. 12 at 9 a.m.

H.O.P.E. (helping others, providing empathy), a support group for grieving people, will meet Aug. 20 at 6 p.m.

A support group for cancer patients and families meets Aug. 12 at 7 p.m.

Swim lessons and water safety skills for children — a two-week session — will begin Aug. 10.

The arthritis aerobic program — eight weeks — will begin Aug. 17.

A low fat, low cholesterol cooking demonstration will be held Aug. 6 at 10 a.m.

A program for personal and professional motivation will be held, Aug. 6, 8 a.m.

Free diabetes glucose testing will occur Aug. 19, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

CPR for adults and children will be held Aug. 17-18, 6-10 p.m.

The Youth and College Choir at Parkway Church, Jackson, will present a musical, "Celebrate the Grace," Aug. 2, 6 p.m. Written by choir students, the musical features original music by Vicksburg artist Joe Shetton. Admission is free.

CLARKE

From page 2

positions of responsibility who want only the greater glory of the Lord and the greater service of the Mississippi Baptist Convention are not going to defraud or betray us. If evidence comes forth that one or some of them have done so, we have a system that can address that problem.

Clarke College was the Lord's school. I will miss the influence of her teaching; I will miss the products of her ministry; I will hope that her mission will continue in the other fine schools left to our family. I will be thankful knowing her, but I will not blame my brother for her death!

Kirkland is pastor, First Church, Amory, and former dean of Clarke College.

Uniform Paul directs Timothy



By Margaret H. Rogers
1 Timothy 4:1-16

This lesson further emphasizes the Hebrew philosophy of education, the conception that education should produce holiness and impart a distinctive lifestyle. Paul was concerned with communicating doctrine plus a whole new way of life — to touch the entire person, to shape beliefs, attitudes, values, and behavior.

The last pictures of Timothy come from these most personal letters in the New Testament, 1 and 2 Timothy. At the writing of these letters, aging Paul is near the end of his life but his burning desire to continue his ministry has not dimmed. He is writing to one of his closest friends; they have traveled, suffered, cried, and laughed together. It was Paul who sent Timothy to Ephesus to oversee the young church there. These letters admonished, encouraged, and gave Timothy needed direction. They have provided comfort and assistance to countless other "Timothys" through the years. Those who face challenges beyond abilities can receive comfort and affirmation by reading 1 and 2 Timothy.

False teachers abound (vv. 1-5). False teachers were and are still threats to the church. It is not enough that a teacher appears to know what he/she is teaching and is disciplined and moral; if his/her words contradict Biblical teaching, then they are false. Paul described false teachers as having devil-inspired ideas; that is, Satan deceives by offering a clever imitation of the real thing. The false teachers were making stringent rules to make them look righteous but their strict disciplines of the body could not remove sin. In opposing the false teachers, Paul affirmed that God's gifts are good and that one should express appreciation for "every good and perfect gift." God's gifts should not be abused but used to glorify and serve Him.

Specific instruction to young Timothy (vv. 6-10). Paul commended Timothy for his teaching and faith, and expected him to use those resources to encourage others. Paul instructed Timothy to use time wisely and, as important as physical fitness is, to be even more concerned about spiritual health. Spiritual growth occurs when talents are used in the service of the Lord.

Use youth as an example (vv. 11-16). It would be easy for older members to look down on Timothy because of his youth. He had to earn the respect of the elders by setting a good example in his teaching, in love, in faith, and in purity of life. Regardless of age, God can use individuals who never think of age as a handicap. Even highly skilled and talented athletes will lose their abilities if their muscles are not toned by constant use. Likewise, spiritual gifts are lost if they are not used; they can be enhanced by the exercise of service. Abilities can waste away from lack of practice and nourishment. Discipline of life and thoughts can pave the way for greater usefulness in the Kingdom of God.

Rogers is a member of Salem Church, Collins.

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Bible Book Joshua's reformation



By David Raddin
2 Kings 11:1-4, 17-18; 12:2-5

Life is sometimes impossible to understand. Times in Judah must have seemed that way in the early years of Joash, son of King Ahaziah. Jehu, a commander in the army of Israel, killed King Joram of Israel and King Ahaziah of Judah. Jehu became king of Israel and Athaliah, Ahaziah's mother, destroyed the royal family in Judah and took over as queen. Baal worship was prevalent and the temple of the Lord was in disrepair. Through the reign of Joash, we see an example of the power of God over circumstances which seem impossible.

Athaliah seized the throne in Judah (11:1-3). When Athaliah, King Ahaziah's mother, realized her son was dead, her reaction was tragic. She began to destroy the royal family. She took over the throne and ruled for six years.

In the midst of the terrible takeover, Jehosheba, Ahaziah's sister, took Ahaziah's son Joash (sometimes called Jehoash) and hid him and a nurse in a bedroom so that he was not murdered. The boy and his nurse remained hidden while Athaliah ruled.

Athaliah is an example of a person who lets personal desire for power and position take priority over the Lord's will. When getting what we want becomes the consuming passion of our lives, how easily we lose sight of what God wants. Great danger is present for us and those around us. The danger for others is that we will take whatever we need of their lives to attain our goals. The danger for us is that we will lose the joy and purpose God has for our lives.

The overthrow of Athaliah (11:4). In Athaliah's seventh year, Jehoiada the priest sent for the commanders of the Carites and the guards, elite units whose job was to guard the palace and support the king on ceremonial occasions. Jehoiada showed the commanders the king's son and gave them instructions regarding the overthrow of Athaliah. When the plans were carried out, the priest Jehoiada crowned Joash king. Athaliah was put to death. A covenant was made between the Lord, the king, and the people that Judah would be the Lord's people.

Through Jehoiada's action to make Joash king, we learn that following the Lord's leadership is sometimes difficult. The key is commitment to being the Lord's person or the Lord's people. Pray for the wisdom to know God's will and the courage to live as he leads.

The destruction of Baal worship in Judah (11:17-18). Renewed in their covenant to the Lord, the people of Judah destroyed the temple of Baal in Jerusalem. Mattan, the priest of Baal, was killed. King Joash was seven years old at the time, and the advice of Jehoiada the priest was very important.

The Word of the Lord is clear, "You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3). The worship of Baal was prevalent in Judah. We see today that people, possessions, and power are among the false gods in our world. Whatever we put before God becomes an object of worship. Do you worship any false god in your life? Won't you make your covenant with the Lord to serve him alone?

The repair of the temple (12:2-5). We read in our Scripture that "Joash did what was right in the eyes of the Lord all the years Jehoiada the priest instructed him" (v. 2). The next verse tells us, however, that the worship sites dominated by Canaanite religion were not destroyed. Joash led in repairing the temple of the Lord for the first time since the temple was built more than a century before. The people were encouraged to give that the temple could be repaired.

Giving so that places of worship to the Lord might be built and maintained is important. May we give ourselves completely to Jesus, so it may be said that you and I did what was right in the eyes of the Lord.

Raddin is pastor, First Church, Summit.

Life and Work Serving in humility



By Milton Burd
2 Samuel 7:18, 20-22, 25-29

After the recent Miss Mississippi Pageant, the winner was quoted as saying, "I couldn't believe it when they announced my name. I woke up at 4 a.m. the next morning to look at the crown to see if it was still a reality."

Many of us have had experiences which are equally difficult to comprehend as reality. We can only understand these experiences as an expression of God's grace. David experienced God's grace in 2 Samuel 7, and his response was one of deep humility. Let's follow David's attitude of humility as it unfolds:

Acknowledgement of God's gracious acts (v. 18). David had just received a word from God through the prophet Nathan. The message was awesome! God had promised David that one of his descendants would build the temple and that his kingdom would be established forever. David entered into God's presence as an act of worship and humility. Again, David was vividly aware of God's grace and his own unworthiness. God had blessed him immeasurably by anointing him as king. Now, God promised to continue his blessings on the descendants of David. This was almost too much for David. He said, "Who am I, Lord, that you have done this for me?" There was no pride or boastfulness on David's part. His humility was genuine. He knew that God was the source of his strength and success. We too can respond in humility to God's gracious acts. No one is deserving of God's goodness; it is his choice to give. We have no bragging rights. Our only response is to humbly recognize the source of these acts.

The basis and purpose of God's gracious acts (v. 20-21). David could not adequately express himself to God through words. His reply was, "You know your servant." God knew his heartfelt gratitude which he could not communicate with words. David was inviting God to judge the depth of his gratitude by looking into his heart.

David was overwhelmed by God's promise to bless his descendants. This promise was not based on David's goodness, but upon God's plan for Israel and his will. God had done great things by establishing David as king and by promising to establish his kingdom forever. This promise was fulfilled by the coming of Jesus (the line of David).

Praise of God (v. 22). David's worship experience led him to exclaim the greatness of God. God is beyond comparison, because there is none like him. All of us can praise God and acknowledge his greatness. He has done great things in our lives, too. The song "My Tribute" begins with the words, "How can I say thanks for the things you have done for me?" and ends with "To God be the glory for the things he has done."

Petition for confirmation of God's promise (v. 25-27). David moved from praise to petition. He asked God to confirm that his kingdom would be established forever (a long period of time). This confirmation (v. 26) would magnify God's name and make his name known to all nations. This request again reflects the humility of David. The revelation of establishing David's house forever gave David the courage to offer this prayer to God. An attitude of humility does not exclude boldness in prayer. God's will for his children is that they communicate openly, honestly, and boldly with him.

Petition for God's continued blessings (v. 25-29). David further asked God to continue blessing him and his house. David knew that he could rely upon God to keep his promises. How do we respond to the gracious acts of God in our lives? Remember that God is the source of all blessings. He gives because of his great love. We receive it in humility.

Burd is minister of education, First Church, Cleveland.

Alcohol should be target in drug war, says Land

By Tom Strode

WASHINGTON (BP) — The federal government should target alcoholic beverages and alcohol advertising to succeed in the war against drugs, the Christian Life Commission's executive director recently told the president's Office of National Drug Control Policy.

"Until we 'deal decisively and forcefully with alcohol in America, most of our efforts to curb the availability of illegal drugs will be nearly futile,'" the CLC's Richard Land wrote in a July 17 letter. "Our society is ready to take drastic measures against the powerful alcohol lobby."

In his letter, Land cited a Gallup poll showing 74% of adults support health and safety warnings in alcohol advertisements and nearly half favor a total ban on such advertising.

Land's letter came in response to a request for input on the president's 1993 National Drug Control Strategy. Ingrid Kolb, acting deputy director of demand reduction, asked Land to recommend content and priorities for a strategy aimed at reducing the demand for drugs.

Calling alcohol a gateway to other drugs, Land mentioned some studies' findings reflecting the

extent of alcohol's impact on the United States:

— By age 18, most children have seen 180,000 beer commercials on television.

— 85 to 93% of unwanted teen pregnancies occur as a result of the influence of alcohol.

— As many as 4.6 million teens between 14 and 17 are problem drinkers.

— An average of 300 persons die daily from alcohol-related causes.

— An estimated \$85.8 billion annually is spent as a result of alcohol problems.

Bills requiring health and safety messages to be included in all alcohol advertising on television and radio as well as in newspapers, magazines, and promotional materials have been introduced in both the Senate and House of Representatives. S. 664 received a subcommittee hearing in the Senate in April. H.R. 1443 received a hearing in the House in 1990. Neither bill has been acted on.

The Christian Life Commission has joined with health, anti-drug, education, and other religious organizations to support the legislation.

Strode is director of media & news information, Washington office, CLC.

Ministers call for worship with planned spontaneity

By Linda Lawson

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Hymn/prayer/hymn/prayer/hymn/prayer/preach describes the all-too-predictable pattern of worship in many Southern Baptist churches.

People who are away from the church on Sunday morning can look at their watches and know what is taking place in the worship service at that moment. Only the titles and names change from week to week.

To facilitate flexibility in worship planning, R.G. Huff, minister of music at University Hills Church in Denver, said he put each element of the service on an individual card so he could easily rearrange them to come up with varied combinations to fit the focus of the service he was planning.

"No one has told us worship has to be hymn, prayer, preach," he said.

Ben Loring, pastor of First Church of Amarillo, Texas, and preacher for the conference, said, "I believe the most important thing the church does is worship. I'm a newcomer to that conviction.

"I do believe we have an enemy. If we don't worship and just go through the motions, then the body of Christ, the church, is hampered," he continued. "If everything becomes predictable,

you're in a box and don't really worship."

Worship services should be planned to enable Christians and non-Christians to seek God, Huff said. "The Father seeks people to worship him."

Confession and meditation give Southern Baptists particular trouble, both in corporate and individual worship, Huff and Don Blackley, minister of music at First Church, Richardson, Texas, agreed.

"This is the most uncomfortable Southern Baptists get — when there's no sound — and they have to commune with the Lord," Blackley said.

Added Huff, "We Southern Baptists don't do confession well in our worship services. Most of us don't do it well in our quiet times."

"Our communities are not alike. Our churches are not alike. Each must find its own mix of honoring God and bringing people to know him," Loring added.

Blackley warned against the "copy cat" syndrome of some worship planners who see positive worship in one church and believe they can achieve the same thing in their churches.

Loring urged ministers of music to "gently push" their pastors toward more advance planning of worship.

Lawson writes for BSSB.

Baptist professors evaluate latest "big bang" evidence

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (ABP)

— The idea that God created the universe is "a more respectable hypothesis at this point in time than at any time in the last 100 years," astrophysicist George Smoot said in April.

Smoot was announcing the findings of his NASA research team, which was investigating the "big bang" theory of the creation of the universe. Smoot was the leader of a team of researchers from the University of California-Berkeley that analyzed data from NASA's Cosmic Background Explorer satellite.

"If you're religious, it's like looking at God," Smoot said of the findings.

But while the national media made much ado of the Berkeley team's findings, the breakthrough — if it really is one — has received a somewhat cooler reception in both scientific and religious communities.

By the time cosmologists met at Princeton University in June to discuss the research team's report, the headlines about the discovery had become a "long-running joke," according to an article in Science magazine.

The reaction of both science and religion professors interviewed by the Word & Way, newsmagazine of the Missouri Convention, suggested the new findings won't impact their faith in God one way or the other.

If anything, the new discoveries would tend to reinforce confidence in creation and in God's "orderliness," said Richard Todd, professor of physics and mathematics at Hannibal-LaGrange College in Hannibal, Mo. But he emphasized, "My faith doesn't rest on scientific calculations; it rests on my personal relationship with him."

"I've always believed in the 'big bang' — God said it and, bang, there it was," quipped Kyle Guimon, chairman of the Natural Sci-

ences Department at Missouri Baptist College in St. Louis.

The "big bang" theory, first proposed in the 1920s, states that the universe began from a massive explosion, perhaps 15 billion years ago, and has been expanding ever since. The theory has been generally "secure" in the scientific community since the 1970s, according to Don Geilker, chairman of the Physics Department at William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo.

The "new evidence" was the discovery of tiny temperature fluctuations — one 100,000th of a degree Kelvin — in cosmic background radiation. Scientists have theorized that the radiation, originally discovered in 1965, originated in the "big bang" and has been expanding and cooling ever since.

However, until recently the radiation appeared to be evenly distributed, offering no explanation for how matter and energy became clumped together in uneven patterns to form nebulae, galaxies, stars, planets and other cosmic structures. The temperature variations could provide the missing piece of the puzzle, according to some scientists.

In the religious community, the announcement got mixed reviews. George Lindbeck, a professor of historical theology at Yale Divinity School, told Religious News Service that the new evidence "seemed to confirm what I believe as a religious person...creation ex nihilo (out of nothing)."

Fact, faith, theory, truth, speculation, revelation — can they ever come together? How does religion respond to what science has to say about the origins of things?

Southern Baptists "haven't decided yet how to integrate well-founded scientific information with our theology," observed Bill Ratliff, professor of philosophy of religion and theology at Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

"We live in a society that is

shaped by scientific research," he pointed out. There is a "sense of indebtedness" to the products of modern science — medical technology, advanced data processing and so forth. But for biblical literalists especially, there also is a sense of "animosity" toward science because some currently held theories appear to be in conflict with the biblical account of creation.

Others, while acknowledging the emphasis on God and his purpose, hold that Genesis 1 is intended as a historical account of creation.

Even among more conservative theologians, "some form of the 'big bang' theory would not be alien to an interpretation of Genesis," noted Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. He cited three ways in which scholars have sought to deal with the question of the age of the universe:

— Some understand the Hebrew word "yom," translated "day," to mean a period of time or an age, not necessarily a 24-hour day.

— "Catastrophism" or the "gap theory" suggests that there is an enormous gap between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2.

— Some theologians believe the days of creation were literal 24-hour days and thus believe in a relatively "young" earth. Typically those who hold that view would place the age of the earth at 15,000 to 25,000 years, Patterson added.

"Not a one of those ways is denying the truth of the Genesis record," Patterson said. The important question, said Patterson and others, is "Who caused the bang?"

"The way I look at it, all truth is God's truth, whether it is discovered in the field of science or the Bible and theology," said Bing Bayer, assistant professor of Old Testament at SBÜ. "On a day-to-day basis, all I need to know is that God created the world and he's in control of it."

Make a joyful noise...

By Jack Colvin
Psalm 66:1-2

Mr. Hay was not a big man. His deep bass voice belied his stature. He sang with great conviction and fervor. As a small boy in Citadel Square Baptist Church, he impressed me as he sang. We often sang, "Holy, Holy, Holy," and his deep booming voice gave special meaning to the words and caused a sense of awe to come over me. I could feel the presence of God in that place.

Why have I remembered this for over 50 years? I'm sure his singing was not great, but it was to the glory of God. God used it to teach me a great respect for worship and His house.

Was it just a coincidence or simply a congregational song? No, much more — a ministry to a child who could not understand all he was being taught at home or in church. God used a man in the congregation who was aware that his singing was making a lasting impression on a child.

How do we influence one another as we worship? Some day we will know. Is it just another song, or is it an opportunity to praise our heavenly Father and minister to someone who is watching us?

Colvin is a member of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, and serves on the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.



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